

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An essentially ceramic target for a sputtering device, ~~especially for magnetically enhanced sputtering~~, said target comprising predominantly nickel oxide, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the nickel oxide is oxygen-deficient with respect to the stoichiometric composition.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stoichiometric deficiency stems from the composition of the intimate blend formed by nickel oxide powders and nickel powders.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in ~~either of claims 1 and 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein x is strictly less than 1.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the target has an electrical resistivity of less than 10 ohm.cm, ~~preferably less than 1 ohm.cm, and more preferably less than 0.1 ohm.cm.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the nickel oxide is alloyed to a minority element.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the atomic percentage of the minority element is less than 500, ~~preferably less than 30% and even more preferably still less than 200~~, calculated with respect to the nickel.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in ~~either of claims 5 and 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the minority element is a material whose oxide is an
electroactive material with anodic coloration.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~
~~wherein~~ the minority element is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of Co, Ir, Ru, and
Rh, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in claim 5, ~~wherein or 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ the minority element is a material whose oxide is an electroactive
material with cathodic coloration.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the minority element is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of Mo, W, Re,
Sn, In, ~~and Bi,~~ and ~~or~~ a mixture of these elements.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in claim 5, ~~wherein or 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ the minority element is ~~chosen~~ selected from the elements belonging to
the column one of the Periodic Table.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the minority element is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, Li, K,
and Na.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in claim 5, ~~wherein or 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ the minority element is a metal or an alkaline earth or a semiconductor,
the hydrated or hydroxylated oxide of which is protonically conductive.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The target as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in~~
~~that wherein~~ the minority element is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of Ta, Zn, Zr,
Al, Si, Sb, U, Be, Mg, Ca, V, and Y, and ~~or~~ a mixture of these elements.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A process for manufacturing a thin layer based on
nickel oxide by magnetically enhanced sputtering, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it uses a
ceramic target as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An electrochromic material produced by Use of the
process as claimed in claim 15;
wherein said ~~for producing an~~ electrochromic material ~~having~~ has an anodic
coloration as a thin layer based on nickel oxide.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An electrochemical device comprising at least one
carrier substrate provided with a stack of functional layers, including at least one
electrochemically active layer, capable of reversibly and simultaneously inserting ions, of the
 H^+ , Li^+ or OH^- type, and electrons, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said electrochemically active
layer is based on nickel oxide obtained by the process as claimed in claim 15 and/or from a
the essentially ceramic target as ~~claimed in one of claims 1 to 14.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The electrochemical device comprising at least one carrier substrate provided with a stack of functional layers, including at least one electrochemically active layer, capable of reversibly and simultaneously inserting ions, of the H^+ , Li^+ or OH^- type, and electrons, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said electrochemically active layer is based on nickel oxide, said layer being alloyed with a minority element consisting of a material whose oxide is an electroactive material with anodic coloration, ~~especially chosen from Co, Ir, Ru, and Rh or a mixture of these elements~~, said layer being obtained from a target as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The electrochemical device comprising at least one carrier substrate provided with a stack of functional layers, including at least one electrochemically active layer, capable of reversibly and simultaneously inserting ions, of the H^+ , Li^+ or OH^- type, and electrons, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said electrochemically active layer is based on nickel oxide, said layer being alloyed with a minority element consisting of a material whose oxide is an electroactive material with anodic coloration, ~~especially chosen from Mo, W, Re, Sn, In, and Bi or a mixture of these elements~~, said layer being obtained from a target as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6 and 9 to 10~~ claim 1.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The electrochemical device comprising at least one carrier substrate provided with a stack of functional layers, including at least one electrochemically active layer, capable of reversibly and simultaneously inserting ions, of the H^+ , Li^+ or OH^- type, and electrons, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said electrochemically active layer is based on nickel oxide, said layer being alloyed with a minority element ~~chosen~~ selected from the elements belonging to the column one of the Periodic Table, ~~especially~~

~~chosen from H, Li, K, and Na or a mixture of these elements~~, said layer being obtained from a target as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6 and 11 to 12~~ claim 1.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The electrochemical device comprising at least one carrier substrate provided with a stack of functional layers, including at least one electrochemically active layer, capable of reversibly and simultaneously inserting ions, of the H^+ , Li^+ or OH^- type, and electrons, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said electrochemically active layer is a metal or an alkaline earth or a semiconductor, the hydrated or hydroxylated oxide of which is protonically conducted, ~~especially chosen from Ta, Zn, Zr, Al, Si, Sb, U, Be, Mg, Ca, V, and Y or a mixture of these elements~~, said layer being obtained from a target as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6 and 13 to 14~~ claim 1.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The use of the electrochemical device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 17 to 21~~ claim 17 to form part of electrochromic glazing, ~~especially for~~ buildings or for means of locomotion of the train, airplane or car type, to form part of display screens or to form part of electrochromic mirrors.